

ECSE Transition

Why: The mission is to have the member districts transition to claiming all students serviced under ECSE 3-5 services into their MARSS system. This has provided a greater clarity and control within the districts. This has also resulted in better quality programming for students.

Why so Complicated: During the 2016-17 school year we tried to make a smooth transition from Southern Plains claiming these students to the districts claiming these students; however, we found that this caused an issue with the state’s complex funding formula. So, unfortunately this must be a gradual transition.

If we did not do this transition as a gradual transition, the member districts will lose state aid on ECSE expenditures exceeding the “growth limit”.

Which Districts: Blue Earth Area, Fairmont Area, Martin County West, and Truman are impacted by this. GHEC has no ECSE students (other than 2 S/L students) in 2016-17 so they are not impacted. United South Central already claimed their ECSE students in 2015-16 so they were not impacted.

Timelines:

A gradual transition will happen each year. Gradually the districts will claim more students in MARSS and pay for an increase in costs. The general education tuition payments will follow where the students is claimed in MARSS.

<i>School Year</i>	<i>Students Claimed by Districts</i>	<i>Students Claimed by Southern Plains</i>	<i>Costs Claimed by Districts</i>	<i>Costs Claimed by Southern Plains</i>
2016-17	¼ of ECSE Students	¾ of ECSE Students	¼ of ECSE Costs	¾ of ECSE Costs
2017-18	½ of ECSE Students	½ of ECSE Students	½ of ECSE Costs	½ of ECSE Costs
2018-19	¾ of ECSE Students	¼ of ECSE Students	¾ of ECSE Costs	¼ of ECSE Costs

Implementation:

<i>When</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
August	ECSE Coordinator	Develop a list of students likely to receive ECSE services for the following school year. The chart below indicates the number of students per year. She will distribute Appendix A to the Accounts Payable and MARSS person in each district.
Throughout the year	MARSS Personnel	Forward any MARSS records related to the students identified in Appendix A to Shelley Junkermeier at Southern Plains.
Throughout the year	Accounts Payable	Forward any tuition placements for students identified in Appendix A to Dawn Becker at Southern Plains.
April	ECSE Coordinator	The ECSE Coordinator will review the list of students on the transition list. If there were a significant number of students that were discontinued or moved out of the district, she will add a proportionate amount. She will re-send the letter in Appendix A to remind staff of the need to forward on this information.

Additional:

Note that Sarah Mittelstadt and Dawn Becker are working on determining appropriate percentages of staff expenditures to place at each district level.

Third Party Billing will also flow to the member districts for ALL ECSE students, as this will reduce the greatest amount of fluctuation of revenue and flow the greatest revenue to the districts.

This is all the best-estimate of ways to impact growth limit. However, with increased student needs and increased salary schedules, the growth limit may impact state aid regardless of these changes.

Student Transition:

The following chart demonstrates the rate of which we will transition students from Southern Plains to member districts. The number on the chart represents how many students will be claimed by Southern Plains. All enrollment records for these students will be completed by Southern Plains, the remaining students will be entered by the member districts.

	BEA	Fairmont Area	Martin County West	Truman
2016-17	17	32	6	8
2017-18	11	21	4	6
2018-19	6	11	2	3

Appendix A

[Date]

Dear MARSS Coordinator and Accounts Payable Personnel:

Southern Plains Education Cooperative is working with member districts in order to provide an inclusive program for students with disabilities in the Early Childhood setting. Research indicates that the more students are able to be included with their peers and accepted within the school district, as young as early childhood, results in greater academic gains and ability to educate students within the Least Restrictive Environment for their future education.

However, there are funding issues if the transition happens quickly. As a result, Southern Plains is “phasing” the transition from Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services being provided by Southern Plains to being provided directly by the member districts. In order to keep the most efficient system, we need your assistance with this process.

For any students that are on the list below, Southern Plains will enter the students in MARSS and pay tuition placements in general education settings. For these students:

- MARSS Coordinator: Please forward enrollment and attendance information to Shelley Junkermeier.
- Accounts Payable Personnel: Please forward tuition placement invoices to Dawn Becker.

The students that Southern Plains will be claiming for the 2016-17 school year are:

- *Students will be listed in this location*
- *Each letter will be individualized per district*
- *The number of students will be identified as per the “Student Transition” chart above.*